

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 070414
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/AR:AGJAMES/MW
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
S/AR:GHALDRICH (DRAFT)
D/LOS:ADBERLIND
EUR/CAN:CJCLEMENT (DRAFT)
S/AR:ELRICHARDSON
EB:JKATZ

-----048053 181743Z /40

O R 181725Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070414

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS
FOR AMBASSADOR ENDERS FROM THE SECRETARY
E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: DEEP SEABED MINING

REF: OTTAWA 1346

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

1. DURING OUR MEETING TODAY, MARCH 17, ELLIOT RICHARDSON
AND I AGREED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO FOLLOW THE COURSE
OF ACTION THAT YOU HAVE SUGGESTED IN REFTEL. ACCORDINGLY,
I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SEEKING AN EARLY APR INTMENT WITH
DON JAMIESON TO CONVEY TO HIM THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 070414

ME:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR DON:

NOW, AS THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IS ABOUT TO GET

UNDERWAY AGAIN IN GENEVA, I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU OUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS CRUCIAL SESSION.

A GREAT DEAL OF VERY CONSTRUCTIVE WORK HAS BEEN DONE TO FRAME AN ACCEPTABLE CONVENTION. THE COLLABORATION OF OUR DELEGATIONS ON MANY ISSUES HAS CONTRIBUTED MATERIALLY TO THE PROGRESS THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE. THAT WE CAN BOTH TAKE SATISFACTION.

DESPITE ALL THE DIFFICULTIES WE FACE, I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT A COMPREHENSIVE LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION IS WORTH STRIVING FOR. THIS IS NOT SIMPLY BECAUSE OUR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY SUCH A CONVENTION, BUT BECAUSE AN ACCEPTABLE TREATY COULD MAKE AN IMMENSE CONTRIBUTION TO ORDER, PREDICTABILITY AND STABILITY IN THE USES OF THE OCEANS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITS RESOURCES. OUR DELEGATION WILL MAKE A VIGOROUS AND SUSTAINED EFFORT AT GENEVA TO ADVANCE THE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD THAT END.

THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFICULT, COMPLEX ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED IN THE COMING WEEKS. CERTAINLY THE MOST FORMIDABLE IS A REGIME FOR MINING THE DEEP SEABED.

RESOLVING THE SEABEDS ISSUE SATISFACTORILY IS AN INDISPENSIBLE CONDITION OF ADHERENCE BY THE UNITED STATES TO A COMPREHENSIVE CONVENTION. AS I HAVE INDICATED BEFORE, WE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 070414

WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SIGN A CONVENTION WHICH DOES NOT ADEQUATELY AND FAIRLY PROTECT OUR INTERESTS IN SEABED MINING--WHATEVER OTHER BENEFITS A COMPREHENSIVE TREATY MAY BRING, AND THEY ARE CONSIDERABLE. ELLIOT RICHARDSON HAS SPELLED THIS OUT EXTENSIVELY, MOST RECENTLY IN HIS MARCH 16 PRESS STATEMENT WHICH I FULLY ENDORSE. BRIEFLY, THERE ARE LIMITS TO THE PRICE WE CAN PAY TO ACHIEVE A TREATY.

YOU KNOW IN DETAIL OUR ESSENTIAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE SEABEDS PROVISIONS IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATING TEXT. ONE PROVISION WHICH TROUBLES US VERY DEEPLY RELATES TO THE PRODUCTION LIMITATION FORMULA IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATING TEXT. THIS ISSUE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO BURDEN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS OR BE AN OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS AT THE CONFERENCE.

WE CONSIDER THIS FORMULA UNREALISTIC, UNNECESSARILY RESTRICTIVE AND ECONOMICALLY UNSOUND. WE ARE GENUINELY SYMPATHETIC TO YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADIAN NICKEL MINING OF SEABED OPERATIONS, AND WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH OUR

DIFFERENCES OVER PRODUCTION LIMITATION MIGHT BE ACCOMMODATED. ELLIOT IS AUTHORIZED TO EXPLORE A VARIETY OF BILATERAL AS WELL AS MULTILATERAL MEANS OF MEETING YOUR

CONCERNS ABOUT POSSIBLE SUBSIDIZATION OF SEABED MINING. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THESE IN GENEVA AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME WITH AMBASSADOR BEESLEY, AS WELL AS WITH DELEGATES FROM OTHER CONCERNED COUNTRIES.

I VERY MUCH HOPE WE CAN FIND A WAY FOR CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE FEW SEABEDS ISSUES WHICH DIVIDE US IN ORDER THAT FRUITFUL NEGOTIATIONS MAY GO FORWARD. IF OUR TWO COUNTRIES CANNOT REACH AN UNDERSTANDING, WE COULD SCARCELY EXPECT THE CONFERENCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 070414

OF LSO STATES TO DO SO. FOR OUR PART WE WILL MAKE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO FIND ACCOMMODATION ON THIS RANGE OF DIFFICULT ISSUES. SINCERELY, CY.

END TEXT.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SEABED, MINING, LAW OF THE SEA, TEXT, POLICIES, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE070414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AGJAMES/MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780120-1125
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780351/aaaabqpd.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 05977cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: 78 OTTAWA 1346
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3280665
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: DEEP SEABED MINING
TAGS: PLOS, US, CA, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (JAMIESON, DON)
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/05977cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014